

Media release

25 June 2019

QAL answers mayday call with ‘Hay Day’

With Queensland over 65% drought-declared and Gladstone now a part of this, how are we keeping all of our livestock fed and happy?

Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) is hoping to help by donating over \$30,000 worth of hay to farmers struggling in the drought-declared Gladstone region.

The Refinery has a large area of buffer land and residue ponds, parts of which were topsoiled and revegetated with rhodes grass many years ago. QAL has committed to cutting and baling this grass into approximately 300 large bales of hay and is calling for expressions of interest from livestock owners in need.

Manager - Health, Safety and Environment, Trent Scherer, said; “It is good to be able to find dual purpose for the grass we grow on site.

“We usually use all the cut grass for on-site mulching, but in times of drought we decide that it is needed more by people struggling to keep their farming businesses running. Last year our hay was most needed in far western Queensland, but this year we are donating it locally,” he said.

“We are encouraging anyone with livestock in the Gladstone region who is needing feed to register an expression of interest with us. The bales will be fairly allocated based on the interest received and people’s need.”

“Being in a unique position to donate hay will also allow 300 less bales that farmers have to find in an already-tough market for feed, helping that hay become available for the rest of Queensland in drought.”

Those interested in seeking some of the donated bales need to email QAL at feedback@qal.com.au by 17 July to be sent further information. People collecting must arrange their own transport with load covering on one of three Saturday collection dates, with the first two being 20th and 27th July.

-ENDS-



Pictured: Last year’s initiative where 350 hay bales were donated to Rural Aid, who delivered the hay to farmers in need in far west Queensland.
Rural Aid CEO Charles Alder and QAL Manager – Health, Safety and Environment Trent Scherer



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